



The Old GUARD

By Stephen Childress



There's something about an old, stately lighthouse that stirs the emotions and makes a soul yearn for the days when schooners, pirate ships and clippers ruled the mighty seas. So hoist yer' colors, lubbers and prepare to float the briny deep. South Carolina's coast offers some of the nation's most picturesque lighthouses and accompanying scenery that's sure to shiver yer' timbers.

Georgetown Lighthouse a.k.a the North Island Lighthouse

The Georgetown Lighthouse was originally constructed of wood in the 1790s and once housed a lantern fueled by whale oil. After being demolished by storms and rebuilt twice, the current structure rose from the rubble in 1867 and stands as the oldest functioning lighthouse in South Carolina. Only accessible by boat, the Georgetown Lighthouse is a real treasure for those determined enough to make the trip.

Hunting Island Lighthouse

The Hunting Island Lighthouse was built in 1859 from brick and wood, but survived just three years before it was blown to bits during the Civil War. Rebuilt in 1875, the lighthouse has survived storms, the Charleston earthquake of 1886 and a relocation effort in 1889 that moved it nearly one and a half miles inland to its current location. This black and white beauty is the only lighthouse in South Carolina that allows visitors to climb the stairs to its lookout for a panoramic view.

Cape Romain Lighthouses

Lighthouse Island, located six miles offshore from McClellanville, SC, is home to two lighthouses. The original lighthouse was constructed in 1827 and is the oldest lighthouse of its kind still standing in the United States. In 1857, a newer, octagonal tower was created. Both can be viewed only by boat. 🚤

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